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MINUTES

OF THE

THIRTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION,

HELD AT

MARION, PERRY COUNTY,

Commencing, December 8, 1854:

AND OF THE

ALABAMA BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY,

HELD AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE.

MARION, ALA.

PRINTED BY DENNIS DYKOUS.

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1854.

Officers of the Convention.

H. TALBIRD, <i>President.</i>	A. B. GOODHUE, <i>Rec. Secretary.</i>
W. P. CHILTON, <i>1st Vice President.</i>	J. H. DE VOTIE, <i>Cor. Secretary.</i>
M. P. JEWETT, <i>2nd " "</i>	S. H. FOWLKES, <i>Treasurer.</i>

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A. G. McCRAW,	J. F. BAILEY,
WM. HORNBUCKLE,	W. N. WYATT,
J. T. BARRON,	I. W. GARROTT,
I. BILLINGSLEY,	J. S. FORD,
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W. N. WYATT,	HON. W. P. CHILTON.
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J. T. BARRON, M. D.,	DR. O. L. SHIVERS.

MINUTES.

MARION, FRIDAY, December 8, 1854.

The delegates assembled at half past 10 o'clock A. M., at the Baptist church.

The Scriptures were read and prayer was offered by the President, the Rev. H. Talbird, D. D., and delegates from the following bodies presented their letters and took their seats.

ASSOCIATIONS.

Alabama—J. Richardson, J. Johnson, I. T. Tichenor, J. Lide.

Bethel—E. G. Talbert, L. B. Lane, A. A. Connella, E. G. Baptist, R. D. Marshall, J. Talbert, J. Reeves.

Tuskegee—S. Henderson, J. M. Watt, A. Van Hoose.

Tuscaloosa—B. Manly, J. L. S. Foster, G. W. Clemens, L. D. Brown, J. H. Foster, J. P. Thompson, Jr.

Liberty—H. Williams.

Eufaula—W. H. McIntosh.

Union—C. B. Sanders, S. Williams.

Cahaba—W. Wilkes, F. M. Law.

Canaan—Letter.

Coosa River—H. E. Taliaferro, J. A. Collins, E. M. Posey, R. F. Mattison, J. C. Wright, L. B. Robinson.

Bigbee—M. B. Clement, Wm. Howard, J. C. Brown, C. E. Brame, E. B. Teague, S. S. Cross.

Central—J. D. Williams.

Pine Barren—K. Hawthorne, S. S. Address.

Tallasahatchie—Letter and Funds.

Shelby—N. Haggard, A. A. Sterrett.

Autauga—J. I. Lamar.

CHURCHES.

Bethany—P. H. Lundy.

Newbern—G. Huckabee, S. Turner, C. C. Huckabee, J. C. Curry, W. T. Hendon, R. Holman.

Centre Ridge—C. F. Sturgis, D. R. Lide.

Shiloh—M. S. Cleveland.

Wetumpka—J. D. Williams.

County Line—C. F. Sturgis.

Hopewell—J. H. De Votie, J. H. Lee, D. S. Hogue.

Mt. Pleasant—J. S. Ford, T. H. Nelms, M. Phillips,

St. Francis Street, Mobile—T. G. Keepe.

Union—Funds.

Big Springs—Funds.

Liberty—Funds.

Oakmulgee—O. H. Perry, J. B. Anderson.

Tuskegee—J. F. Hooten, Thos. Howard.

Jones Creek—Wm. Howard.

Siloam—J. Walker, R. A. Montague, J. B. Fiquet, Z. Henderson, S. R. Freeman.

Selma—W. Wilkes, F. M. Law, Crawford Johnson,

Spring Hill—L. B. Lane, A. A. Connella.

Salem—W. S. Barton, Robt. Molten.

Montgomery—I. T. Tichenor, R. Figh.

Uniontown—Saml. Woodfin.

Colored Portion of Siloam Church—W. B. Lawson, Funds,

Friendship—Funds.

OTHER BODIES.

Collirene Missionary Box—P. H. Landy.

Gainesville Ladies Bible Society—Wm. Howard.

Shoal Creek Female Baptist Missionary Society—N. Haggard, Ed. King.

Judson Female Institute Missionary Society—D. G. Sherman, J. A. Melcher, W. B. Lawson, John Moore.

LIFE MEMBERS.

H. Talbird, Edmund King, E. D. King, W. N. Wyatt, C. F. Sturgis, L. C. Tutt, J. B. Nave, I. Billingsley, M. P. Jewett, C. Billingsley, S. H. Fowlkes, A. B. Goodhue, J. F. Cocke, Wm. Hornbuckle, J. Kinerd, J. H. De Votie, I. W. Garrett, L. Y. Tarrant, E. A. Blunt, E. Fagan.

CORRESPONDING BODIES.

Southern Baptist Bible Board—A. C. Dayton, Corresponding Secretary.

Board Domestic Missions Southern Baptist Convention—J. Walker, Corresponding Secretary.

Georgia Baptist Convention—James Davis.

Board Foreign Missions Southern Baptist Convention—A. M. Poindexter, Assistant Secretary.

Mississippi Baptist Convention—M. Granberry.

The organization of the Body was completed by the election of the following Officers, viz:

Rev. H. TALBIRD, D. D., *President.*

Prof. A. B. GOODHUE, *Recording Secretary,*

Rev. J. M. WATT, *Assistant Recording Secretary,*

The President announced the following committees to report during the session, viz :

On the state of Religion—H. E. Taliaferro, Wm. Howard, E. B. Teague.

On Letters and Documents—E. B. Teague, M. B. Clement, J. F. Hooten.

On Periodicals—A. Van Hoose, J. S. Ford, J. H. Lee.

On Finance—D. R. Lide, L. C. Tutt, I. Billingsley.

On Preaching—Deacons of the Siloam Church, J. Walker, S. S. Cross, D. S. Hogue.

To Nominate Preachers for the Next Session—Edmund King R. Holman, W. N. Wyatt.

The Convention was informed that the Houses of Worship of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in the place had been kindly tendered for its use during the session.

Resolved, That ministering brethren, not members of the Convention, be invited to seats in the same.

The invitation was accepted by the Rev. James Haggard.

Adjourned until half past 2 o'clock, P. M.

FRIDAY, AFTERNOON.

Met agreeably to adjournment.

A letter from Wm. Jenkins, Sr., enclosing a check for \$650, was read and ordered to be spread upon the Minutes. The following is the letter ;

MARDISVILLE, October 14, 1854.

President and Members of the Alabama Baptist Convention :

DEAR BRETHREN—I congratulate you in the privilege of once more meeting together for doing good, and that you may be instrumental in sending the gospel to the ends of earth, that the heathen may be converted and made meet for the inheritance of the Divine Redeemer, and the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession. For some aid of which I send you enclosed, a check on Fulton Bank, New York, for *six hundred and fifty dollars*, which I wish disposed of as follows : \$200 for the Mission to the Creek Indians ; \$100 for African Missions ; \$100 in Bibles for China, sent to brother Roberts for distribution ; \$100 in Bibles for the Chinese in California, to be disposed of by brother Shuck ; \$100 for the young men preparing for the ministry in Howard College, and the balance, \$50, to assist in sending the gospel to the black people in this State, where most needed.

Yours with a sincere desire for the success of your labors.

WM. JENKINS, Sr.

Voted to attend preaching to-night.

The committee on preaching announced that the Rev. Dr. Manly would preach.

The report of the committee on Indian Missions was read and re-committed, and T. G. Keene added to the committee.

The report of the committee to nominate the remaining officers of the Convention was adopted as follows:

W. P. CHILTON, *1st Vice President.*

M. P. JEWETT, *2d " "*

J. H. DE VOTIE, *Corresponding Secretary.*

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treasurer.*

DIRECTORS.—A. G. McCraw, W. Hornbuckle, J. T. Barron, I. Billingsley, J. S. Ford, J. F. Bailey, W. N. Wyatt, I. W. Garrett, A. A. Connella.

The following committee was appointed to nominate preachers for the next session, viz:—E. D. King, A. Van Hoose, R. Holman.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. Prayer by the Rev. A. C. Dayton.

SATURDAY, 9 o'clock, A. M.

The Convention met for business. Prayer by Rev. J. Reeves.

The Minutes were read and approved.

The report of the committee on Sabbath Schools was adopted. See Appendix A.

M. P. Jewett and E. B. Teague were added to the committee on Temperance.

The report of the committee on Domestic Missions was adopted. Appendix B.

The report of the Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute was read and referred to the committee on Education. Appendix C.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourns it will adjourn to meet in Montgomery on Wednesday before the second Friday in May next.

The report of the committee on Periodicals was adopted. Appendix D.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Voted to request Rev. J. H. De Votie to preach the funeral sermon of Rev. Thos. Chilton, before the Convention on Monday night next.

The report of the committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society was adopted. Appendix E.

The report of the committee on the State of Religion was adopted. Appendix F.

The report of the committee on Foreign Missions was adopted. Appendix G.

The report of the committee to nominate preachers for the next session was adopted as follows:

To preach the Introductory Sermon—DR. B. MANLY, Principal; DR. H. TALBIRD, Alternate.

They also recommend that the remaining annual sermons should be dispensed with for the next session.

The report of the committee on Education was made the special order of the day for Monday at 10 o'clock A. M.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY NIGHT.

The Introductory sermon was preached by the Rev. T. G. Keene.

SUNDAY.

At the Baptist church, at 11 o'clock, Rev. E. B. Teague preached the Missionary Sermon. At 3 o'clock a Mass Missionary Meeting was held, at which the Rev. A. M. Poindexter made a very effective appeal in behalf of Foreign Missions. A large collection was taken up and divided equally between Domestic, Foreign and Indian Missions.

At the Presbyterian church the Rev. Dr. Manly preached at 11 o'clock, Rev. J. Reeves to the colored people at 3 o'clock, and Rev. C. F. Sturgis at night.

At the Methodist church Rev. A. M. Poindexter preached at 11 o'clock, Rev. H. E. Taliaferro at 3 o'clock to the colored people, and Rev. J. A. Collins to the colored people at night.

MONDAY MORNING.

The Convention met for business. Prayer by Rev. E. B. Teague. The Minutes were read and approved.

The following delegates were appointed to Corresponding Bodies, viz:

To the Mississippi Baptist Convention—I. Tichenor, E. B. Teague, S. Henderson, J. Walker, W. Wilkes, J. H. De Votie, H. Williams.

To the Georgia Baptist State Convention—S. Williams, S. R. Freeman, S. S. Cross, J. S. Ford, J. Richardson, N. Haggard, A. Van Hoose, P. H. Lundy.

To the South Carolina Baptist State Convention—E. B. Teague, R. F. Mattison, J. F. Bailey, T. G. Keene, H. Talbird.

The committee on Periodicals reported verbally that they found nothing upon which to base a report which was adopted.

The verbal report of the committee on Indian Missions was adopted.

The committee on the State of Religion in large Towns and Cities, were, at their request, allowed to defer their report until the next session.

The report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College was adopted. Appendix H.

The report of the committee on Education was adopted. Appendix I.

A collection was taken up for the purpose of uniting with the Students of Howard College in the erection of a monument to HARRY, the College servant, belonging to President Talbird, who lost his life by means of injuries received from the fire, during his efforts to awake the students to a knowledge of their perilous condition.

Appointed I. W. Garrott, H. Talbird and M. P. Jewett a committee to superintend, in conjunction with a committee of the Students, the erection of the monument.

The President announced the following standing committees to report at the next session, viz:

On Temperance—C. F. Sturgis, J. Lile, P. H. Lundy.

On Foreign Missions—Wm Howard, M. B. Clement, E. G. Baptist.

On Domestic Missions—J. Walker, J. F. Bailey, I. W. Garrott.

On Sabbath Schools—B. Manly, J. H. Foster, Ed. Prince.

On Southern Baptist Publication Society—S. Henderson, A. J. Battle, W. P. Chilton.

On the State of Religion in Large Towns and Cities—T. G. Keene, I. T. Tichenor, J. Walker.

On Education—H. E. Taliaferro, S. Henderson, S. G. Jenkins.

Report of Treasurer referred to an Auditing Committee, consisting of I. W. Garrott, W. N. Wyatt and J. F. Bailey.

Adjourned.

MONDAY NIGHT.

The Rev. J. H. De Votie preached the funeral sermon of the Rev. Thos. Chilton.

The Convention met for business.

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of Howard College be requested to appoint a Financial Secretary at such a salary as they may deem expedient; and that any arrangement they make will be satisfactory to the Convention.

Ordered that the funds in hand be paid over to the societies for which they were designed, and that the Bible Society be exempted from the *pro rata* tax for publishing the Minutes.

Report of committee on Temperance adopted.

Voted to request a copy of the Introductory Sermon by the Rev. T. G. Keene for publication in the Baptist Preacher.

Appointed as delegates to the next session of the Southern Baptist Convention, B. Manly, H. Talbird, I. T. Tichenor, C. F. Sturgis, D. Peebles, R. J. Ware, J. Richardson, J. Walker, D. Lee, S. Henderson, W. P. Chilton, A. T. M. Handy, J. M. Watt, G. W. Gunn, W. Williams, A. A. Sterret, W. C. Mynatt, W. H. McIntosh, J. G. Shorter, A. A. Connella, L. B. Lane, K. Hawthorne, J. J. Sessions, H. Williams, F. Callaway, D. R. W. McIver, J. D. Williams, J. L. M. Curry, H. E. Taliaferro, O. Welch, J. A. Collins, J. B.

Baker, A. J. Waldrop, J. H. De Votie, M. P. Jewett, A. G. McCraw, R. Holman, E. D. King, W. N. Wyatt, E. B. Teague, Wm. Howard, J. C. Foster, F. G. Keene, P. H. Lundy, A. Van Hoose, E. King, W. W. Mason, A. Williams, J. H. Foster, T. H. Watts, W. B. Haralson.

Report of Auditing committee adopted.

Report of Finance committee adopted.

Appropriated the money sent by the young Ladies of the East Alabama Female College to the Apparatus Fund of Howard College.

Voted to accept with thanks the donation of Bro. Figh to the Cabinet of Howard College.

Voted to recommend to churches sending delegates to religious bodies, to defray their expenses.

Voted to request the churches to raise funds as the basis of representation to the next session.

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of Howard College be instructed to proceed at once to erect suitable College Buildings.

Appropriated ninety dollars for printing the Minutes.

Appropriated forty dollars to the Secretary for distributing the Minutes.

Passed a vote of thanks to the churches and citizens of Marion for their courteous treatment and kind hospitality during the session.

Voted to refer all unfinished business to the Board of Directors.

Adjourned with prayer by the President.

H. TALBIRD, *President*.

A. B. GOODHUE, *Recording Secretary*.

J. M. WATT, *Assistant Secretary*.

APPENDIX.

[A.] *Report on Sabbath Schools.*

The importance of the Sabbath School enterprise is too apparent to require a lengthy report. Its practical results—whenever it has been fully and judiciously tried—commend themselves to every christian. The enlightened and pious of almost every denomination, regard it as one of the most effective auxiliaries to the church. Your committee therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That as ministers and delegates we will exert ourselves to promote the interests of the Sabbath School enterprise in our churches and associations.

WM. HOWARD, *Chairman*.

[B.] *Report of the Committee on Domestic Missions.*

The magnitude of interests involved gives importance to the subject confided to your committee. Upon the spirit, capacity and support of our Home Missions, must depend the healthful action of our Foreign. You will permit us to make a few practical suggestions on the relative importance of fields of operations, the persons to occupy, and the most probable aids to success.

FIRST—THE FIELDS OF LABOR.—Men of the world, and especially those of moderate capital, choose fields of operation where the readiest and most certain returns will be realized. And our Board, in our judgment, should be governed by the same rule in the investment of the funds placed at their control. The time, cost and labor must be computed, and that field occupied which will produce the quickest and largest returns. Here, we trust, your committee will not be regarded as invidious. We contend, in this, as in every thing else, for the fitness of the operator for his special work. We have, under the gospel, a variety of gifts, but all by the same spirit. Great evils result, doubtless, by the mismanagement of God's laborers. They sometimes *err* themselves, at other times influences beyond their control, force *them* into improper fields. But as it regards the missionaries for our fields, reference should not be had merely to spiritual qualifications. It is not *enough* for them to be good pastors. They must not only be full of faith and the Holy Ghost, but should also possess those high traits of character which will enter into, and successfully mingle with the common sense, successful man, and secure confidence in him as a man of active and positive virtues. In a Scripture sense, the missionary should be a growing man—one calculated to lead. His acquired, practical and gospel abilities should elevate him, in general society, above mediocrity. However much his goodness may endear *him* to his people, (and this is indispensable,) he must be "*a workman that needeth not to be ashamed*;" "*rightly to divide the word of truth among his hearers.*" These qualifications and acquirements will, with God's blessings, give him success, and *that* inspired zeal and activity, and *these* lead to practical wisdom, and crown his ministerial character in doctrines, faith and good works, as the servant of Jesus Christ.

AIDS TO SUCCESS.—Whilst all success is from God, and the gospel preached his ordained means of salvation, he sanctions whatever kindred agencies he pleases in forwarding the operations of truth, either in the preparation of the soil or cultivation of the plants in his vineyard. Whilst Phillip may preach Christ to a reading and yet ignorant penitent, Aquilla and Priscilla may teach some *young disciple* the way of the Lord more perfectly. While pious women, under the great missionary Paul, were not allowed to teach publicly, yet, in private, they labored with him in word and doctrine. Private brethren, from surrounding churches, in singing, prayer and exhortation have, and can often do the soul-burthened missionary effective service. Those who rely upon their own efforts will often fail, while others of less talent will succeed by these helps. There is a power given to the swelling affection of pious hearts, poured out in heavenly music, fervent prayer, and affectionate exhortation that will electrify and control souls, and cause them to seek Christ as involuntarily as the streams flow to the ocean.

The supply of well selected books, in the hands of the missionary or of a

colporteur, will lessen very much the otherwise needed labor. With a well regulated supply of these the surface of operation may be doubled, and yet as well cultivated with them as the one half without them, and in the discharge of this work the very best method of gospel training for future usefulness.

These suggestions have not been made in the spirit of complaining, neither of dictation. We only ask for them the consideration they merit, particularly as our Associations are giving the control of their Local Missions to the Domestic Board, at Marion. In many of the flourishing country settlements, especially in the northern portions of the State, are Baptist missionary grounds, saying nothing of surrounding States in our sunny south. And to many of *them* our membership is rapidly passing. And *they* would hail your missionaries as the messengers of mercy from God.

Respectfully submitted.

D. R. W. McIVER, *Chairman.*

[C.] *Report of the Board of Trustees of the Judson Female Institute.*

The Trustees of the Judson Female Institute respectfully report:

The number of Pupils on the Catalogue for the Scholastic year, ending July 6, is *Two Hundred and Three.*

The last Graduating Class, numbering fifteen, was the largest that has received the Honors of the Institute.

Since the last meeting of your body, only two cases of serious illness have occurred among the inmates of the institution, one of which, hemorrhage from the nostrils, proved fatal.

The number of students, in attendance at this date, is *Two Hundred and Fourteen*, being forty-four more than were present at the same time, one year ago.

The number of Professors, Teachers and other Officers, at this time connected with the Judson is *seventeen*—all of them devoting their whole time to the interests of the Institute.

The Report of the Board of Visitors on the last Examination, is herewith submitted.

Respectfully,

E. D. KING, *President, &c.*

S. H. FOWLKES, *Secretary.*

December 8, 1853.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS, UPON THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL EXAMINATION OF THE JUDSON FEMALE INSTITUTE.

The examination occupied four days, during which time there were brought forward more than forty classes in the various branches of the extensive and judiciously arranged course of study marked out for the pupils of the Judson.

The examination was conducted in the most thorough and impartial manner, the members of the Board assigning parts to the pupils after they had been called, or otherwise calling out the pupils after the parts had been named by the instructor.

The pupils, from the Misses in the Primary and Preparatory Departments, to the young ladies of the Senior Class, sustained their examination in a

manner highly creditable to themselves and the Institution. In Mathematics, they solved the most difficult problems and demonstrated the most abstruse propositions, readily, accurately and understandingly. In Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Astronomy, Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, Rhetoric, Logic, &c., their recitations showed that they had not merely committed to memory the language of the author, but had made the principles developed a part of their stock of knowledge. The large number of classes in which most of the young ladies appeared, was an evidence not only of great industry, but of more than ordinary ability.

The Board were convinced of the eminent ability of the Faculty of instruction. The rigid, skillful and ready manner in which all the Professors and Teachers conducted the examination of their classes, exhibited not only their high attainments in their several departments, but their skill and fidelity as instructors. The cheerfulness observable on the part of their pupils, and their promptness in fulfilling their wishes, showed that they had secured their confidence and esteem.

The exhibition of Drawings and Paintings, Embroidery, Wax-work, &c., gave evidence that the pupils in this department had had instruction not only thorough and faithful, but such as to inspire them with a love for these elegant accomplishments.

The Concerts of Music satisfied the Board that the high reputation of this department had been richly merited. The selections were good, the arrangement of parts admirable, and the performances highly creditable even to an institution of so high a reputation as the Judson. The large number of pieces of music performed at the concerts as well as during the progress of the examination for the entertainment of the audience, requiring a high degree of knowledge, skill and taste for their execution, and performed too almost entirely by the pupils themselves, caused some surprise.

The exercises of the Graduating Class, fifteen in number, on the occasion of their receiving the honors of the Institution, were of an interesting and elevated character. The essays of the class, as well as their manner of reading them, and indeed their whole appearance were such as to excite the just pride of their instructors, their friends, the friends of the Institution and all friends of education.

The perfect system and regularity manifested during the examination, the orderly conduct and lady-like deportment of the pupils on all occasions, elicited the admiration of the Board.

The universally healthful appearance of so large a number of pupils, notwithstanding their close application to study, was also the subject of remark.

Everything connected with the closing exercises of the session tended to impress the Board with the belief that, although the Judson enjoys a higher reputation than any other Female Seminary in the south-west, perhaps in the whole South, yet its real merits are not fully appreciated. We believe there is hardly to be found elsewhere, an Institution of the kind with so much to recommend it, and so little to detract from its claims. Consummate skill in management, indefatigable industry, ardent devotion to the cause of education, as well as a deep interest in the welfare of the rising generation, on the part of its distinguished Principal, have been the means of building up an Institution which is an honor and a blessing not only to the denomination to which it belongs, but to the State, the Country.

[D.]

Report on Periodicals.

Your committee on periodicals regard the Home and Foreign Journal and Indian Advocate important periodicals, and earnestly recommend that the denomination more liberally patronize them.

The South Western Baptist, now published at Tuskegee, Ala., your committee would also recommend to the sympathy and support of Baptists, in particular, and to the friends of truth in general. This paper we regard as the organ, and the only organ, of the denomination in the State. There are now about sixty thousand Baptists in Alabama. Surely by this number one paper ought to be sustained. But is such the fact? Is our State organ sustained? We ask the Convention seriously to consider and answer these questions. The truth is, (as we learn from the Editors,) that though there are sixty thousand Baptists in Alabama there are only between *fifteen and sixteen hundred subscribers to the "South Western Baptist."*

Does this look like sustaining that paper? Some may say that many of our members are servants. That is true. But then we reply that many even of these fifteen or sixteen hundred subscribers either live out of the State or are not members of the Baptist church. Your committee think we ought to emulate our brethren of other denominations in this respect. A failure of a paper among them would be almost an anomaly in their history. Why is this? The answer is obvious. They never attempt the publication of a paper unless one is really demanded, and then the whole denomination unites in sustaining it. So should we do. If then the South Western Baptist is not needed as an organ of communication, we should advise the editors and stockholders to discontinue it, and should they not heed this suggestion every Baptist ought to order his paper stopped immediately. It is then for this Convention, or the Baptists of Alabama to say whether the South Western Baptist is necessary—whether its friends shall continue to publish it, or shall cease to labor and sacrifice to promote the interests of truth in this way. Your committee then submit the question to the Convention. Do we need a paper in the State, and if so will we sustain it?

All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. VAN HOOSE, *Chairman.*

(E)

Report of the Committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

Your committee have had under consideration the subject submitted to them, and though they have had but little data from which to form an opinion in relation to the condition of the Southern Baptist Publication Society, and the influence which it is exerting upon the Baptist denomination, and our population at large, yet we are authorized to believe, that the Society has accomplished all that could have been expected from the limited amount of money which its friends have been able to command. The Society has clearly proven that we have in our midst all the elements necessary for the advancement of our literature, and that nothing is wanting but a vigorous effort to bring them into successful operation. It is now known that books emanating from our own authors, suited to our character and to our national relations, to the wants of the age and the church, commended

by their style and fervor of piety, can be obtained. The influence of which, if properly circulated, will be not only to elevate the standard of piety among our members, but to strengthen the mind and chasten the imagination. Hence we most cheerfully recommend the Southern Baptist Publication Society to the kind regard and fostering care of all Southern Baptists.

P. H. LUNDY, *Chairman.*

(F) *Report of the Committee on the State of Religion.*

The committee on the State of Religion, beg leave to submit the following Report:

The means of accurately ascertaining the progress of the denomination since the last Convention, in numerical strength and liberality, are not within the reach of the committee, though it has not been inconsiderable, comparing favorably with the progress of former years.

Whilst there are exceptions, it affords the committee pleasure to express their conviction that great doctrinal uniformity pervades the denomination, coinciding more nearly, it is believed, with that which is now beginning to be known as the *Fullerian* system, than any other; and though little noise is made about it, your committee believe that there was never a time when our peculiar church polity as Baptists was better understood by the masses of our people, or more firmly held as the teaching of God's word.

The churches in various parts of the State regard themselves inadequately supplied with the ministry. This arises from two or three causes easily specified: 1st. The number of young men coming forward in the right spirit, and furnished with the means, private or public, for training suited to the sacred office, is too small. 2d. Proper encouragement and aid are not supplied to those who are approved as men of God, however patiently and laboriously they may furnish proof of their authority to speak for him, the first years of a young minister in Alabama, unless he is aided by external circumstances or extraordinary endowments, being cheerless in the extreme. This kind of discipline is not unwholesome, in the case of the stronger spirit, perhaps, but may it not discourage or even overwhelm some of a mental and moral constitution less robust, who, cheered by the sympathies and prayers and aid of the churches, might be eminently serviceable? 3d. However arising, there is a demand for an order of piety and attainments, we mean in the knowledge that maketh wise unto salvation, unmet by the present supply. May it not be that there is too little prayer on this subject? too little consecration? That parents do not covet the sacred profession for their sons as they do the secular professions?

Your committee would advert to a phase in the religion of the times not peculiar to the Baptist denomination, viz: its periodicity. The accessions to our churches are almost wholly in the summer and fall months, attributable to the fact that what are called protracted meetings, are held in most of the churches during those months, when the ordinary avocations of life are for the time laid aside, and men attend on the services and ordinances of religion. This period over, they return, in many cases, with *unwonted* avidity to their secular occupations for a twelvemonth, establishing in fact and in spirit, it is to be feared, a line so sharply defined between religion

and business that one is regarded incompatible with the other. Now while protracted meetings have evidently, in many cases, been found a good instrumentality, this periodicity, passing from the extreme of enthusiasm to that of apathy, fostered by the present system, furnishes occasion for serious thought if not alarm, as destructive of uniform and consistent piety, and detrimental to the right estimation of the "patient continuance in well doing" of the pastoral office and labors. In some cases the people have almost forgotten the use of "pastors and teachers," in their absorption with "evangelists." Dazzled with the more imposing brightness of the comet, they have failed to appreciate the never-fading light of the fixed stars.

Another temptation of the times may be a recognition too strong of the outward, artificial, appliances, by which congregations are to be gotten up, places of worship built, and significance and respectability attained, in comparison with the idea that 'they labor in vain who build the house, except the Lord build it.' Perhaps no idea among men is more easily lost sight of, than that it is the truth, plainly and simply declared as it is in Jesus, with child-like dependence on the Great Head of the Church for his blessing, to which all other means are to be subordinate and secondary, and upon which must be placed every reliance for real success. The wisdom of men, placed above the "foolishness of preaching," has ever been the sign of decaying vitality.

Upon the whole, your committee see nothing discouraging in the aspect of our religious affairs though they have used "great plainness of speech." The cause of religious education is gaining ground in the esteem of the churches; the theory at least, of entire consecration of spirit, talents and property, to the service of Christ is acquiring, we trust, stronger and stronger hold upon the minds and hearts of our brethren; and an honest and intelligent recognition of our needs, will, it is believed, under God, guide us to safety and success.

Respectfully submitted.

E. B. TEAGUE, *Chairman.*

[G] *The Committee on Foreign Missions*

Respectfully report, that in surveying the motives which might and ought to present themselves to the christian mind as excitants to the great work of missions, such is the magnitude and such the stirring nature of those considerations, that your committee feel convinced that they are sufficient to arouse and impel to continued and vigorous action all who truly love our Lord Jesus Christ. And whenever these considerations shall be brought to exert their legitimate effects upon the mind and heart of God's people, then, and not till then, will the work of christian missions be commenced in earnest.

Among these considerations, your committee beg leave to enumerate, briefly, as follows:

Gratitude to Almighty God for that wisely ordered and benevolent train of providences by which we ourselves have been brought into the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, should keep us constantly alive to the obligations which rest upon us as subjects of divine grace and expectants of glory.

Not to occupy time in reviewing the gracious providence by which we, the descendants of a once barbarous and idolatrous people, have been brought to the high degree of civilization which we now enjoy, let us reflect, each for himself, on that distinguishing mercy by which we, as well as many of the dearest objects of our affection, have been brought into the condition of heirs of God and co-heirs with our Lord Jesus Christ, and that command of Him whom we acknowledge as our Lord and Master, which is emphatically His "*great command*," and that work which is truly the Church's great work, must come home to our hearts if we are possessed of christian hearts. Let any christian look around him, and see how many of those those most dear to his heart, once aliens and strangers, without hope and without God, are rejoicing in the confident expectation of that glory and immortality promised in the blessed gospel, and in view of these unspeakable mercies answer to conscience and to his loving, dying Redeemer, "*How much owest thou thy Lord!*"

Another consideration which your committee would present as adapted to arouse the christian heart, and impel to continued and persevering action in this great work, is THE LUXURY OF DOING GOOD!

Our divine Redeemer settled a most important principle when he pronounced that memorable sentiment attributed to him by his inspired Apostle: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." If there is (as all who have fairly tried the experiment assure us there is) an indescribable luxury in the exercise of the common charities of life—as clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and visiting the fatherless and the widow, the sick and the imprisoned—and if these acts are of so much consequence in the estimation of THE GREAT RULER OF ALL that he declares, (Matt. xxv: 35-46,) that they will be recognized and mentioned in the decisions of the great day before the assembled intelligences of the Universe, what estimate ought christians to place upon the great duty of giving the gospel to those who are sitting in the region and shadow of death? If it be a blessed thing to deal bread to the perishing child of want, and thereby lengthen out for a brief period that life which must ere long be surrendered in obedience to that inexorable decree, "*Dust thou art and unto dust thou shalt return*," what must it be to deal to those who are perishing for the bread and water of life, that bread of which if a man eat he shall hunger no more, and that water whereof if a man drink it shall be in him a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.

Your committee would further urge that THE REDEEMER LOOKS TO HIS CHURCH, THOSE WHOM HE HAS PURCHASED BY HIS OWN PRECIOUS BLOOD, TO DO THIS WORK. He has come into the world, met the enemy—his and ours—conquered and routed the combined powers of earth and hell, and ascending up on high, has in his last, and as we have already said, "*great command*," left to his church the comparatively easy task of (by means which he has placed abundantly within her control, viz: MEN AND MONEY) pushing his glorious victories to their final consummation. And shall they be slow to gather up the spoils of victory? Shall they hesitate to expend their funds, and, if need be, give the choicest of their sons and daughters to secure the fruits of that victory accomplished by the tears, the groans, the agony, the bloody sweat, the stripes, the insults, the cruel and ignominious death of

their covenant Head and Lord? Humanity, and generous impulses of every christian heart, respond in full chorus, MAY HEAVEN FORTHWIT IT.

Especially ought such sentiments possess our souls when we take into consideration that THIS IS THE ONLY MEANS BY WHICH THIS GREAT WORK IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. Amidst the boundless resources subservient to the will of our divine Lord as the Head over all things to the church, one single means has been selected; and upon this, and this alone, does he rely. It is not for us to question by what means and by what ways the work of evangelization might have been accomplished. Sufficient is it for us to know, that He whom we profess to recognize as our Lord and Master, and in whose infinite wisdom and goodness we profess to have unlimited confidence, has determined, in preference to all other means, "*by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe*;" that upon the church of redeemed sinners, bought with blood, is conferred the high distinction of being co-workers with God in the great scheme of redemption.

Here, it would appear, is a field in which the most towering ambition might luxuriate as in an ocean of delights. And woe! woe!! woe!!! to those who, having the stewardship of the silver and the gold, withhold or refuse when the demand comes in the inspired word, in the melting appeals of our various boards, from the affecting, imploring cares of our missionary brethren and sisters, from the thousands and tens of thousands who are rapidly going down to perdition. THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM. It would be no great stretch of the imagination for wealthy christians to realize, that from every wind that blows, the cry comes up with irresistible pathos, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM.

From China, from those young and faithful hearts Crawford and Yates, and Penney and Cabaniss and Whelden, we can hear the melting cry, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM! Your silver and your gold, your sons and your daughters, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM!! For the heathens are going down to perdition daily by scores and by hundreds.

And when we turn our attentive ear to Africa, poor benighted Africa! we hear another concert of melting appeals. From Bowen and from Day, and from Cheeseman, and from Davis, and from Murray, and from White, and from Mason, and the cry blending and melting upon the heart of the christian is, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM. And may we not imagine the shades of that devoted pair, young Denna d and his companion, hovering around us even here, and whispering to every kindred heart in this assembly, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM! Yourselves and your gold, your choicest young men and maidens, THE LORD HATH NEED OF THEM!!!

Your committee cannot refrain from calling attention to the fact that whilst there never was a time since the Redeemer gave his commission to his church "*to preach the gospel to every creature*," that the world was thrown so widely open to christian missionary enterprise, when the duty was so practicable and consequently the obligations so great, instead of enlarging their operations, our Boards are reduced to the mortifying necessity of not only declining further appointments, but are even threatened with the necessity of recalling some of those already in the field; painful, mortifying fact! and can we realize that noble, generous hearted men and women are willing to endure all the living martyrdom of missionary life, and all for a bear support, whilst those who have the stewardship of the silver and gold

are literally rolling in affluence, and employing that wealth with which God has entrusted them in pampering the vanity or vices of their children, and thus paving their way down to perdition.

In view of such facts as these we are ready to ask, CAN WE BE CHRISTIANS? CAN WE BE CHRISTIANS?

In view of these considerations, which can and ought to be brought to bear upon the mind and heart of God's people, and which are eminently adapted to arouse the christian world to united and energetic action in the great cause of evangelization, your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st. That it is expedient and necessary that measures be devised to give increased energy to the various departments of benevolent enterprise contemplated by this body, and the Convention hereby commends to the prayerful consideration of our brethren, the ministers and members, to devise such measures as, in their judgment, is best adapted to produce this so desirable a result.

Resolved, 2d, That among the measures which this body would recommend as adapted to this end, we suggest as follows:

1st. The more general diffusion of missionary intelligence among all classes of the christian community by the circulation of the South Western Baptist, The Home and Foreign Journal, The Indian Advocate, and such tracts and books in cheap form as have from time to time been published upon these subjects, among which we name "Zaccheus," "The Redeemer's Last Command," "The Mission of the Church," "The Divine Scheme of Benevolence," and other similar works published by the American Tract Society.

2d. The bringing emphatically before the minds of churches and communities the wants of the world by means of Mass Missionary Meetings, held at prominent points during the ensuing year, and to which brethren should be invited to spend days in discussing these subjects, and diffusing intelligence by such means as they may deem expedient.

Resolved, 3d, That the average amount of contributions for the various benevolent objects contemplated by this body ought not to be less than one cent per week, or fifty cents per annum, for each communicant of these bodies that correspond with this. That this average is fully attainable, and we hereby affectionately recommend the brethren, and especially the pastors throughout the State, to take some early opportunity to lay this matter before their respective churches, with a view of soliciting their cheerful cooperation.

C. F. STURGIS.

(H) *Report of the Board of Trustees of Howard College.*

The Board of Trustees of Howard College respectfully submit the following report of the condition and progress of the College since their last report:

The Board have seen no cause to complain of any member of the Faculty, to whose able and efficient superintendence and management the educational interest of the College has been entrusted during the past year. The same Professors, consequently, continue to fill the chairs occupied by them at the last meeting of the Convention. In place of the Assistant

Tutor in the Primary Department, the Board found that it was necessary to elect Mr. Melcher, whose skill and reputation as a teacher, are well known to your body. Mr. Melcher has entered upon the discharge of his duties, and notwithstanding the appalling misfortune which befell the institution in the destruction of its only edifice, and the melancholy circumstances attending it, it is anticipated that this department will prosper under his charge. His salary will increase the amount annually paid the Faculty about three hundred dollars.

The number of students connected with the College during the session ending in July last, was 152, the largest which it ever had. Out of these, four graduated and received their diplomas at the last annual Commencement. It is but an act of justice to these young gentlemen to say that while they belonged to the College their conduct and deportment was conspicuous for propriety, and that they so discharged their duties as to reflect credit on themselves and the institution. Of this class one was a theological student, who bids fair to do good service in the great cause to which he has devoted his life and energies.

The present session of the College opened with perhaps brighter prospects than any one before. The number of students was 112, and most of them were older and better prepared than usual to enter the regular classes. More than an average number of theological students were expected to be in attendance and the prospects of the institution seemed to be better and more cheering than at any former period. But the hopes of the professors, students, and friends of the College were destined to be blasted in a moment. On the night of the 15th of October last, the startling cry of fire was heard about the hour of midnight, and it was soon discovered that the College building was on fire. Prompt efforts were made to do what might be done, but the flames had progressed too far to be stayed by any human agency. Not only were the spectators unable to do any thing towards extinguishing the fire, but they were soon horror stricken to see the students crowding to the window with scorched hands and faces, doomed, either to an awful death by the flames, which were rapidly approaching them, or to take the scarcely less dreadful alternative of leaping from the windows. Their fate seemed sealed, but their brave young hearts were equal to the emergency. After the interchange of a few hasty words, they determined to leap from the giddy heights where they stood, rather than fall sacrifices to the merciless element which was raging behind them. All but four did take that fearful leap, and astonishing to relate, though many of them jumped from the windows of the fourth story of the building, not one was killed. A ladder was fortunately brought, by the thoughtfulness of a citizen of Marion, by which Mr. Montague, one of the teachers, and three of the students were rescued from the dreadful death with which they were threatened. It was then discovered that Mr. A. H. Talbert, one of the students, was still in the fourth story of the burning building, and his death seemed inevitable. He was not seen at the windows, but it was known that he was in the building. Three noble spirits, Prof. N. K. Davis, Mr. Augustus Stollenwerk, and Mr. Washburn, immediately volunteered to imperil their own lives, to rescue him. He was found by them, insensible on the floor of a room in the fourth story, and amid smoke, fire and falling timbers, was taken up, and by heroic daring

and great physical energy, he was carried down, and saved from immediate death. Many of the students were most seriously injured, either by burns or their falls. Most of them, however, have either entirely recovered or nearly so; some few are still suffering, but with fair prospects of ultimately being restored to health. One, the young gentleman above referred to, who was so nobly rescued, did not survive the injuries received from the fire. Hopes were for some time entertained that he would recover, but the great Disposer of events had decreed otherwise. It seemed hard that one so young so full of hope, should be thus torn away in the morning of life, from every endearment which earth could give, but the Great Being who called him away had prepared him for his departure, and while those who loved him here for the many excellences of his character, can but lament his untimely death, and will long take sad pleasure in recalling the many evidences of the goodness and gentleness of his nature which memory faithfully treasured up, they are cheered by the hope that he is now reaping the reward which his early piety secured to him.

The suddenness of the fire, and the place of its origin—cutting off as it did all way of escape for the students—rendered it impossible to save any of the College property. Not only the building, but the philosophical and chemical apparatus, the cabinets of curiosities, the libraries of the College, of the two Literary Societies connected with it, and of the President of the College; in short, everything is a total loss. The calamity on the denomination and the general educational interests of the country, is great. The visitation is mysterious, but He who controls all things “seeth not as man seeth;” and however awful and overwhelming the misfortune now appears to be, let us bow in humble submission to His will, with the confident assurance that however inscrutable this event is to our shortsightedness, that it was designed for good. The Howard College did not consist merely of the brick and mortar out of which the building was constructed, and in which its exercises were conducted, nor of the many and varied articles of value which it contained; but it was an organized existence, altogether independent of its edifice, and dependent for its existence on the generous, warm hearts of its benefactors. Many of these have already nobly and promptly come to its assistance, and already about twenty thousand dollars have been subscribed to rebuild it. This sum is sufficient to rear such buildings as the wants of the denomination and the public demand; and we still hope that the amount will be increased by one third at least, so that the institution may have such buildings as its necessities require, and such as every Baptist and well wisher of the cause of education ought to desire to see erected. Steps have already been taken to secure another more eligible site, and new buildings will, it is expected, soon be under contract, and will be completed as early as practicable. In the meantime the exercises of the College have been, and it is intended, will continue to be kept up, so as to avoid as far as possible any intermission in the studies of those whose education have been entrusted to it.

Candor requires that it should be stated that the financial condition of the College is not such as it should be. An examination of the later reports of the Board heretofore submitted to the Convention will show, and the fact is unquestionable that the funds of the College are gradually diminishing, and

unless some remedy is provided one of two results must follow—either the College exercises must cease at once, or the exercises will be kept up for a few years and then its existence will terminate for want of funds to sustain it. The last annual report shows that the theological and literary fund amounted to \$58,855 80, it may now be set down at several hundred dollars less—but these sums are merely nominal—a careful examination of the books, and inquiry into the condition of the subscribers to the different funds since the last Convention, have developed the fact that but little over forty thousand dollars of the entire funds of the College (beside the late subscription lists, and list of brother Henderson, hereafter mentioned) can now be regarded as available. The annual interest on the portion of this amount which pays interest, and the tuition received from students who are now receiving the benefit of scholarships, and are not beneficiaries, will not pay the current expenses of the College; and the consequence is, that one of three alternatives must be taken: the College must be closed, the principal fund must be used and gradually exhausted, or a sufficient sum must be obtained by annual subscriptions to supply the constantly recurring deficiency. The Board have made many efforts to procure the services of such an agent as the necessities of the case demand, but thus far without success. Brother Henderson was appointed by the Board in July last to canvass so much of the State as he could during the last vacation; and it affords us pleasure to be able to state, that he was met with a liberality at least as great as could have been expected. During the short time he was in the field, he obtained something over ten thousand dollars of good subscription. All the circumstances considered, probably no agent was at any previous period more successful. This sum is not only cheering in itself, but it is proof of the continued desire of the denomination, as well as of the community, to sustain this institution. It augurs favorably for one more systematic effort that may be hereafter made to effect its permanent endowment. The questions however still recur: How shall the annual deficit in paying the expenses of the College be met? Shall the principal continue to be used, and thus the chances for the permanent endowment of the College be annually diminished, the diminution increasing in amount with the time this system shall be followed? These are questions which the Board of Trustees submit to the Convention, and ask solutions at the present session. The Board respectfully solicit definite action. If it be the pleasure of the Convention, that the principal of the College fund shall not be used, let it be so said; and let it be understood in connection therewith, that this determination must be adhered to, although a suspension of the exercises of the College be the result.

Whatever course may be adopted, the Board beg leave to press upon the Convention, and the denomination at large, the necessity of immediate action in order to secure the end so long desired—the permanent endowment of the College; that the services of at least one efficient agent should be obtained, and that he should be kept in the field until the end wished for shall be gained; that this Convention should now resolve that, with the aid of the Giver of all good, that the Howard College shall no longer have a doubtful and precarious existence, but that it shall be placed on a solid and enduring basis, and that it shall be what the denomination, if united

and determined, can make it—an ornament to the State, a monument to Baptist zeal and liberality in the cause of education, and, with the approving smiles of the great Redeemer, an instrumentality in aiding to effect the regeneration of mankind. All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. W. GARBOTT,

President of Board of Trustees.

(I) *Report of the Committee on Education.*

Your committee would speak in terms of commendation of the various enterprises connected with this department of our denominational efforts. The increasing prosperity of the Judson Female Institute deserves particular notice, the number of pupils being now larger than at any previous time in its history. We would refer the friends of female education to the report of the Board of Trustees, and recommend that the report of the Board of Visitors be published in your Minutes.

It is a most encouraging fact, in this progressive day, that a good education is beginning to be regarded the richest inheritance that we can give our children, the best service we can render to our country, and with the consecration of our hearts to Christ, the noblest sacrifice we can offer to him. The great object before this body is, we believe, as it should be, the establishment of Howard College upon a basis that shall make it the glory of our land, and a blessing to the world. Can this be done? Your committee think it can; and that perhaps at no time in its history has there been a period more favorable to it than the present. The recent destruction of the College Building has stirred the sympathies of its friends, and as the energies of parental love are quickened by the approach of danger to a beloved child, so are they prepared to render more efficient service, and make larger sacrifices than they have yet done in behalf of this—the offspring of their benevolence. It is only by expecting great things, and attempting great things, that great things are ever accomplished. The expectation and the attempt must go hand in hand.

Without offering any matured plan, your committee would make two suggestions—first, that an efficient agent be employed forthwith to collect funds for the permanent endowment of Howard College, and that he receive such a salary as will secure the most competent man in the denomination; second, that the funds thus collected be appropriated, first, to place the Literary Fund beyond the sinking process, and second, to the endowment an additional Theological Professorship. A well sustained Theological School is imperatively demanded. In all the South we have not such an one as is needed. Far be it from us to cast any reflection upon those engaged in this department, either in Howard College or any other similar institution. So far as provided for, their places could not be better filled; but the Theological Departments in our institutions of learning have not the prominence which they deserve. Nor would your committee be understood as depreciating the importance of the Literary Department. Their interests need not, and should not conflict, but in entire harmony be made subservient to the great ends for which they were created. Another Theological Professorship would not only afford increased advantages to the Theological, but also

strengthen the Literary Department, such time as might not be fully occupied by the one being devoted to the other. Your committee have learned, with gratification, that the number of students during the last term was larger than during any previous year, and that the number entering the College proper was nearly double. The prospects of the College were brighter than ever before. In conclusion, your committee suggest that for the object to which they have given prominence in this report, viz: Theological education, funds can be more readily obtained than for any other, and thus the general interests of the College be promoted.

W. H. McINTOSH, *Chairman*.

Report on Temperance.

Within the past year the Temperance question has materially changed its aspect. At the last session of this body a petition, signed in behalf of the Convention, was presented to our State Legislature, praying them to enact a law giving precincts, or counties, the right of deciding, by popular vote or otherwise, whether licenses shall be granted in their respective bounds. Similar petitions were made by our District Associations, by religious bodies of other denominations, and by individuals, until they represented the interest of one hundred and twenty thousand of the population of the State. The committee of the Legislature to whom these petitions were referred, stated that it was inexpedient to legislate upon this subject.

Since that time, a convention of the friends of Temperance, held in the city of Montgomery, unanimously resolved to make this issue before the people at the next popular election. However deeply we may sympathize with this movement as individuals, with it, as a religious body, we can have nothing to do. We recommend therefore, the adoption of the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That we feel an unabated interest in the cause of Temperance.

2d. *Resolved*, That we would see with great pleasure the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits, as a beverage, suppressed by legal enactment.

I. T. TICHENOR, *Chairman*.

Samuel H. Foulkes, Treasurer, in account with the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

1853.	<i>Foreign Mission Account.</i>	<i>Dr.</i>
Dec. 8.	To balance due this fund, (see last Report,)	\$48 15
	Cash received from Finance Committee,	1005 68
	“ “ “ “ “ for African Missions,	801 04
	Cash rec'd from Finance Committee for China Missions,	241 72
		<hr/>
		\$2096 59

1853.				Cr.
Dec. 6.	By Jas. B. Taylor's receipt,			\$129 60
7.	" " " "			1475 00
	By T. J. Bowth's	"		217 10
	" " " "	"		181 15
	" " " "	"		20 00
	" " " "	"		25 00
	Cash retained for general purposes,			2 05
				<hr/>
				\$2050 49
	Balance due this fund,			46 10

1853.	<i>Domestic Mission Account.</i>	Dr.
Dec. 8.	To cash rec'd from Finance Committee,	\$1451 36
	" " " " " for	
	California Missions,	784 30
21.	Cash from Edward King, as pledged,	25 00
		<hr/>
		\$2260 66

1853.			Cr.
Dec. 8.	By Joseph Walker's receipt,		\$0 50
	J. Lewis Shuck's	"	15 35
	J. H. De Votie's	"	63 00
	Cash retained for general purposes,		3 00
	William Hornbuckle, Treas., receipt,		2171 81
			<hr/>
			\$2260 66

1853.	<i>Bible Society Account.</i>	Dr.
Dec. 8.	To cash from Finance Com., Domestic Cause,	\$484 37
	" " " " Foreign "	33 95
	" " " " Bethel Associa-	
	tion, Colporteur Society,	40 00
		<hr/>
		\$558 32

1853.		Cr.
Dec. 8.	By E. A. Blunt, Treas., receipt,	\$558 32

1853.	<i>General Purpose Account.</i>	Dr.
Dec. 8.	To cash from Finance Committee,	\$147 55
21.	" " Shelby Asso., by the hands of R. Holman,	6 60
	" " from the Domestic Mission fund,	3 00
	" " " " Foreign " "	2 05
		<hr/>
		\$159 20

1853.		Cr.
Dec. 8.	By balance due from this fund, (see last Report,)	\$27 73
	P. H. Lundy's receipt,	150 00
	Error in Finance Report,	1 47
		<hr/>
		\$179 20

1853.	Beneficiary Account, Howard College.	Dr.
Dec. 8.	To Cash from Finance Committee,	\$738 91
1854.	" " " Bethel Theo. Educat'l Society,	40 00
Nov. 2.	" " " Ladies of Baptist Church Tus-	35 00
	kegee,	
	" " " " Grant's Creek Bap-	21 00
	tist Church,	
15.	" " " N. W. Prince,	7 00
20.	" " " Mrs. George Mattison,	5 00
		<hr/>
		\$846 91

	Cr.
Dec. 8. By balance as per last report,	\$13 83
" J. H. DeVotie's receipt,	95 00
19. T. B. Hinton's "	34 32
27. Mrs. M. Codey's "	42 00
" " " "	25 50
1854. " Harris's "	26 00
Jan. 5. S. S. Lattimer's "	28 60
21. E. Blunt's (3) "	186 00
37. Blunt & Tutt's "	49 07
31. Mrs. M. Codey's "	32 50
Mar. 24. S. S. Lattimer's "	33 36
Apr. 3. " " " "	39 00
" J. E. Bell's "	15 00
18. Mrs. M. Codey's "	42 00
May 8. J. E. Bell's "	15 00
June 19. Mrs. Harris's "	34 50
29. E. A. Blunt's "	50 00
July 5. Mrs. Harris's "	11 50
Nov. 25. E. A. Blunt's "	40 00
Balance due this fund	33 70
	<hr/>
	\$846 81

To balance due this fund, \$33 70

1853.	Southern Publication Society.	Dr.	Cr.
Dec. 8.	To Cash received from Finance Committee,	\$125 95	
" "	By D. G. Daniel's receipt,	20 00	20 00
Balance due this fund,		<hr/>	
		\$105 95	

1853.	Indian Mission Account.	Dr.
Dec. 8.	To Cash received from Finance Committee,	\$1127 31
	" balance due this fund, (see last report)	2 88
	" Cash from Dr. O. L. Shivers,	5 00
		<hr/>
		\$1135 19

1854.

Cr.

Feb'y 22. By Check forwarded on account in New-York—receipt acknowledged to Mr. Walker,

\$1140 05

" amount overpaid, (see I. T. Tichenor's letter)

\$1221 05 75 00

Bal. overpaid on this fund,

\$85 86

To the President and Members of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

I beg leave to submit herewith my report, as Treasurer of the Convention, for the past year, showing a balance in my hands, due on Foreign Mission account, of forty-six dollars and ten cents; on the Beneficiary account of Howard College, thirty-three dollars and seventy cents; and on account of the Southern Publication Society, one hundred and five dollars and ninety-five cents, making in all one hundred and eighty-five dollars and seventy-five cents, which, after deducting eighty-five dollars and eighty-six cents, overpaid on Indian Mission account, leaves a balance in my hands of ninety-nine dollars and eighty-nine cents, subject to your order.

Fraternally,

S. H. FOWLKES, *Treas. A. B. S. C.*

Foregoing report examined and found correct.

I. W. GARROTT, *Chairman of Auditing Committee.*

Report of the Committee on Finance.

BODIES CONTRIBUTING.	For'gn Miss'n	Domest. Missions	Af. Miss'n	China	S. P. Socy	Ben. Coll'ge	H. For B. Cause	Dom B. Cause	Califor. Miss'n	Indian Miss'n	Gen'l Purp's	Cath. Miss'n	Build. Miss'n	Choc. N. O.	Afric. Miss'n	TOTAL
Alabama Association,	40 90	68 40	36 60	.....	11 00	103 53	.....	65 40	5 00	100 00						431 85
Tuskegee Association,	94 75	104 50	233 55	10 00	5 00	.....	.....	90 85		173 00						711 65
Spring Hill Church,	50 00	50 00	.....	.....	.....	50 00	13 50	.....		50 00						213 50
Mt. Pleasant Church,	.....	7 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		10 00						17 00
Union Association,	65 20	32 10	.....	.....	5 00	.....	.....	12 25		20 20		5 00				139 75
Bap. Fem. So. Sl't cr. S. C.,	.....	8 60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		8 50			2 00			17 20
Selma Baptist Church,	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								12 00
Antauga Association,	.....	20 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								20 00
Shiloh Church, Dallas Co.,	35 00	25 00	.....	.....	10 00	10 00	.....	15 00		15 00						110 00
Bigbee Association,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		15 25						20 25
Gainesville Ladies Bible S.,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....			5 00					15 10
Jones Creek ch. Suinter co.,	100 00	125 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								225 00
Tuscaloosa Association,	38 50	35 00	.....	.....	.....	18 00	.....	.....		38 00					2 25	141 75
Liberty church Dallas Co.,	.....	6 65	.....	.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....		16 70						33 85
Centre Ridge church,	18 65	87 70	7 00	2 00	.....	7 95	5 20	13 00	2 00							139 00
Ladies So. Providence Ch.,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15 00	.....	.....								15 00
Ladies East Ala. Fem. Col	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....			73 00					73 00
Centre Ridge S. School,	.....	35	45	60	.....	.....	60	.....								2 00
Liberty Association, East,	37 05	144 92	28 85	9 95	3 70	.....	.....	.....		56 55						281 12
Friendship Church,	20 65	20 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								40 65
Bethel Association,	5 11	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		5 36				8 25		18 72
Shelby Association,	.....	38 15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								38 15
Edmund King,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20 00	.....	.....		20 00						40 00
Big Spring Church,	.....	18 25	.....	.....	.....	10 10	.....	.....								28 35
Oakmulgee B. Church,	2 60	2 00	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	28 00		2 00						35 00
Collerine Mrs. Lox,	.....	77 60	.....	.....	.....	.....	7 50	.....								15 10
Mount Lebanon Church,	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....							10 00	10 00
Bethany Church,	.....	11 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								11 00
Montgomery Church,	23 75	29 50	.....	.....	.....	22 25	13 00	13 00		25 25						126 75
Hopewell Church,	9 00	9 25	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								18 25
Salom Church, Greene,	.....	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....								5 00
Newbern Church,	61 00	05 58	.....	.....	.....	36 00	18 00	19 00		38 50			40 00			50 00
																248 08

*\$10 of this amount contributed by Newbern Church, for Contingent Fund, Howard College.

Report of the Committee on

BODIES CONTRIBUTING.	Foreign Missions	Domestic Mission	Gen. Af. Mission.	China Mission...	So. Pub. Society.	Beneficiaries Howard College.
Benton Church.....	2 00	5 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Siloam Colored Church...	6 00	7 35	.....	.....	.....	.....
Friends in Eufaula.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 00
Uniontown Church.....	42 50	42 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fem. Miss. So. Judson Inst.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pine Barren Association...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31 00
Siloam Baptist Church.....	.....	245 90	.....	37 42 35 25	101 50	.....
Coosa River Association...	6 75	25 45	.....	.....	.....	.....
Col. by J. A. Collins.....	.....	50	.....	4 42	50	5 00
J. M. A. Leverett,.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethlehem Association.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 50
Calhoun Association.....	23 40	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Canaan Association.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Public Collection.....	147 69	147 35	.....	.....	.....	.....
David Gordon.....	.....	10 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
	824 89	1415 55	306 55	64 39	71 40	475 85

NOTE—The following amounts included above are designated for particular objects, viz: \$73 00 from East Alabama Female College to be applied either to Library, Cabinet or Philosophical Apparatus of Howard College, as the Convention may determine; \$38 15, from Shelby Association to be expended in bounds of said Association; \$10 50 paid by Bethlehem Association, for support of Bro. Kendrick; \$9 10 paid by Big Spring church, for James R. Webster; \$1 00 paid by same church for John C. Foster;—\$2 50 collected by J. A. Collins for J. R. Webster; \$2 50 collected by same for John C. Foster; \$100 00 from Alabama Association for Indian Missions subject to the order of C. F. Sturgis.

Finance--Continued.

For Bible Cause.	Dom. Bible Cause.	California Miss'n.	Indian Mission...	Gen'l Purposes..	Catholic Mission.	Building Fund Howard College.	Choctaw Mission.	N. O. Church...	African Mission..	Total.....
.....	00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 35
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85 00
.....	.....	225 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	225 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31 00
34 50	42 50	.....	68 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	51 07	.....	616 30
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32 20
4 27	.....	.....	5 90	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 72	.....	25 31
.....	.....	.....	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 50
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28 50
.....	12 25	20 00	19 20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51 45
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	295 03
.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10 00
80 07	336 35	252 00	688 71	73 50	5 00	42 00	\$5 22	25 69	14 47	51 65
Amount of William Jenkins's donation.....										650 00

\$5401 65

WM. JENKINS, Sr. as follows:

- \$200 00 Mission to Creek Indians.
- 100 00 African Missions.
- 100 00 Bibles in China to be sent to bro. Roberts for distribution.
- 100 00 " " California for the Chinese, Bro. Shuck.
- 100 00 Young men preparing for ministry in Howard College.
- 50 00 In sounding the gospel to blacks.

\$650 00

D. R. LIDE, Chairman Finance Committee.

MINUTES

OF THE ALABAMA

BAPTIST BIBLE SOCIETY,

1854.

The Alabama Baptist Bible Society met according to previous appointment in Marion, December 10th, 1854, J. H. De Votie, President, in the chair.

Rev. A. M. Poindexter opened the exercises by prayer.

Representatives from the following societies appeared and took their seats:

Bethel Bible and Colporteur Society—Rev. W. J. Parker, L. B. Lane, Rev. A. A. Connella, Rev. John Talbert.

Pine Barren Bible Association—Rev. K. Hawthorn.

Cahaba Association—Rev. S. M. Law.

Tuskegee Association Bible Society—T. S. Howard, Rev. J. M. Watt, Rev. S. Henderson, Rev. A. Van Hoose.

Unity Church, Prattville—Funds.

Tuscaloosa Association Bible Society—Rev. Joshua H. Foster.

Liberty Association Bible Society—H. Williams.

Many brethren, who became members by their contributions on Sabbath night, after the excellent and eloquent Bible sermon by Rev. I. T. Tichenor, whose names appear in the Treasurers report, present. Collection over \$300.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

REV. J. H. DE VOTIE, *President.*

E. D. KING, *1st Vice President.*

REV. T. G. KEENE, *2nd Vice President.*

REV. P. H. LUNDY, *Secretary.*

E. A. BLUNT, *Treasurer.*

MANAGERS.

REV. JOS. WALKER,

REV. M. P. JEWETT,

J. F. BAILEY.

REV. R. HOLMAN,

L. C. TUTT,

REV. H. TALBIRD,

A. B. GOODHUE.

Rev. Joshua H. Foster to preach the anniversary sermon; Rev. S. Henderson, alternate.

REPORT OF BOARD.

The Rev. J. D. Williams has been in the field, as Agent of the society, during the year, and we trust great good has been accomplished. The attention of the society is specially directed to those parts of his report which

discloses the destitution of the Word in our State, and his suggestions relative to the best means of supplying this need. He says :

1st. In regard to the amount of destitution to be supplied, I have, during the three years that I have been acting as your Agent, taken some trouble, by personal observation and by inquiry of intelligent and judicious brethren, to ascertain what destitution really exists in our State, and am convinced that it is vastly greater than we have been accustomed to believe. In Antauga county alone we have found, during the last year, no less than 180 families destitute of the Word of life ; and this, I am persuaded, is much less than what exists in many of the other counties, but, taking this as an average, we will find _____ families in the State to be supplied with the Scriptures.

2nd. As to our plan for supplying this destitution it must, to be effectual, be a *general plan*, extending over all the State. The operations of three or four Associations in the richest, most intelligent and least destitute portions will not meet the emergency. We must do something in *all* the Associations, and most in the poorest and most destitute. It will, therefore, be necessary to establish a general system of Colportage, and, if you will permit, I would respectfully suggest the following plan of organization, for which, I am indebted in part, to suggestions of some of the most intelligent members of our churches and their pastors :—Let us obtain this winter at least \$2000 for a permanent depository fund, to be invested in Bibles, Testaments and Religious Books—especially our denominational works—and from which our Colporteurs may draw their supplies for circulation in each Association. At the meetings of the Associations in the coming year let a small sum, say one, or two, or three hundred dollars be raised in each, with which to purchase books from the depository for circulation in that Association, and a faithful brother appointed to travel in the Associational bounds, sell the books, supply the destitute, and solicit contributions to sustain the work. The money received for the books will go back to the depository for a new supply. The profits will be appropriated to pay the Colporteurs, and if it be not sufficient they can be paid from the contributions which they collect in passing. The system will thus, when once put into operation, sustain itself, and the depository fund can never be diminished—~~as~~ from it we will sell only for cash. The Central Association has already a fund of about four hundred dollars—enough to set two Colporteurs at work within her bounds. The Bethel and the Bigbee have also considerable sums already contributed. We need the *general depository* fund to furnish regular and timely supplies of books of suitable character, and without the delay which will occur when we have to send abroad for them, and suitable men to engage in their distribution. We can have the money by the 1st of April, and the men will be found ready for the work. The State can be supplied thus not only with the Scriptures but with such books and tracts as are designed to explain and enforce the teachings of the Scriptures, and sustain the doctrines of the true churches of Jesus Christ. Numbers of our brethren will be employed in active and efficient work preaching the gospel from house to house, among those who would probably never hear it otherwise, and our denomination will become better known, and our doctrines and practices more perfectly understood, not only by the free circulation of our books, and tracts, and papers, but by the labors and conversation of our brethren thus engaged.

The Board has made donations to the following societies, according to the terms of their auxiliary relationship, for gratuitous distribution :

Bible Society, Tuscaloosa Association,	837 72
Bible Society, Bethelhem Association,	13 50
Evergreen Church and Congregation,	12 25
Pine Barren Association Bible Society,	62 94
Canaan Association,	22 51
Centre Ridge Church,	10 60
Also to the Wetumpka Bible Society to supply destitute in Autauga Co.,	100 00
Testaments for Sabbath Schools, Perry County,	3 00
German Bibles distributed in Mobile,	5 00
To the indigent, by Bro. Williams, at Wetumpka Depository,	16 00
Donated at Selma Depository,	1 50
Donated at Warrenton,	2 00

8276 99

The Depositors not having completed all their reports a full statement cannot be given at this time, but there is about \$1000 stock on hand. The world needs the Bible, and thereby Christians can never be satisfied until the whole is supplied.

Rev. A. C. Dayton, Corresponding Secretary of Bible Board, Southern Baptist Convention, being present was invited to address the society, which he did with eloquence and effect.

All unfinished business was referred to the Board.

Adjourned to meet at Montgomery in May next, at the time of the Biennial Convention.

J. H. DE VOTIE, *President*.

P. H. LUNDY, *Secretary*.

Treasurer's Report.

EDWARD A. BLUNT, in account with Alabama Baptist Bible Society.

1853 *Cash Received.*

Dec. 2. Amount on hand,	\$899 74
6. Amount received of Rev. J. H. DeVotie, President of Ala. Bible Society; Associations, Churches and names of contributors reported in Minutes December, 1853,	986 50
Amount received of Samuel H. Fowlkes, Treasurer of Ala. Baptist State Convention, for Domestic Bible Cause, ..	483 37
Amount received of do do for Foreign Bible Cause,	33 95
Amount received of do do, as sent to Convention by Bethel Association and Bible Society,	40 00

1854.

Oct. 17 Amount received of Rev. J. D. Williams, per the hand of Rev. J. H. DeVotie, from Cahaba Association,	57 60
" Amount received of do do do, from Alabama Association.	65 90
Dec. 12. Collections by Rev. J. D. Williams, Agent for Ala. B. Bible Society, in Tuskegee Association, viz: Rev. J. M. Newman, \$10; Mrs. M. R. Hand, \$2; Mrs. S. M. Jordan,	

\$2; R. Hellam, \$5; Farmville Church, \$5 65; Rev. J. R. Hand, \$10; T. J. Jordan, \$5; Mrs. C. S. Tarbert, 50 cents; J. Hugely, \$5,.....	50 15
<i>Central Association</i> .—L. Marberry, \$5; S. J. Thomas, 5; Wm. Thomas, 50 c.; J. Walker, 50 c.; A. T. Maxwell, 50 c.; J. J. Smith, 25 c.; P. McKinny, 3; J. Smith, 1; J. T. Glaze, 50 c.; R. Maxwell, 2; F. Maxwell, 50 c.; H. C. Thomas, 50 c.; H. McKinny, 2,.....	21 25
Wetumpka Church,.....	21 00
<i>Coosa River Association</i> .—T. Hudgens, \$1; H. P. Owden, 1; E. Oliver, 75 c.; G. G. Morris, 2; Walker Reynolds, 20; S. Morris, 2; Col. S. Wallis, 5; Miss Lucy Bowden, 50 c.,.....	32 25
Colored, Big Spring Church,.....	18 50
Mrs. M. B. Mosely, 50 c.; Wm. Curry, \$10; C. Wilson, 3; J. T. Gibson, 1; W. B. Gowen, 1; B. M. Fluker, 2; George Hill, 5; L. W. Lawler, 5; Rev. J. P. Rowden, 10; Rev. J. M. Scott, 5; L. S. Bradford, 1; Colored Church, for African Mission, 60 c.; Tallasahatchie Church, 2 25 c., W. Red, 50 c.,.....	46 85
R. M. Mynatt, \$2; Wm. Mallory, 5; Rev. T. Calley, 5; S. Jones, Esq. 10; Mrs. M. S. Gracy, 5,.....	27
Colored Church in the town of Taladega,.....	14 25
<i>Liberty Association</i> —Antioch Church,.....	9 55
Swift Creek Church Bible Society, for China,.....	5
Amount for Bibles sold at Wetumpka Depository,.....	66 15
Amount for Bibles sold at Rockford Depository,.....	3 65
Amount for Bibles sold at Benton, by J. Brazier,.....	80 32
<i>Liberty Association</i> —for Domestic Bible Cause \$65 40, less \$3 00 for publishing Minutes of Association,.....	62 40
For Bible Cause in China,.....	26
Pine Barren Bible Society,.....	40
Sale of Bibles by Rev. P. Stout,.....	33 58
<i>Tuskegee Bible Association</i> —as per receipt sent H. A. Howard....	80
Bethel Bible and Colporter Society,.....	10
Sale of Bibles by Rev. J. R. Haggard,.....	50
E. D. King, \$10; Rev. J. H. DeVotie, 10; Rev. M. P. Jewett, 10;...	30
W. N. Wyatt, \$10; C. C. Huckabee, 10; J. B. Fiquet, 10;.....	30
L. B. Lane, \$10; Rev. J. Williams, 10; Rev. S. R. Freeman 10;...	30
Dr. J. T. Barron, \$10; Dr. S. Ball, 10; Rev. Richard Madison, 10;...	30
Gray Huckabee, \$10; S. Williams, 10; John Lee, 10;.....	30
Rev. H. Talbird, \$5; Mr. Figh, 5;.....	10
J. J. Lamar, \$5; J. T. Brown, 5;.....	10
M. W. Shumake, \$5; Rev. E. B. Teague, 5;.....	10
C. E. Brance, \$5; J. C. Curry, 5;.....	10
Rev. J. S. Ford, \$5; R. Molton, 5;.....	10
K. Hawthorn, \$5; S. S. Andrews, 5;.....	10
Mrs. J. A. Barron, \$5; Rev. P. H. Lundy, 3;.....	8
S. Turner, \$5; Rev. J. A. Collins, 1;.....	6
Ansel Talbot, \$5; Rev. E. B. Teague, 1;.....	6

Rev. I. T. Tichenor, \$5; Rev. A. A. Connella, 1;.....	6
Rev. John Talbot, \$1; G. C. Johnson 5;.....	6
Rev. H. E. Talleferro, \$1; L. D. Brown, 1;.....	2
Gen. E. G. Talbot, \$5; Rev. W. H. McIntosh 5;.....	10
Miss E. Billingsly, 50c.; Rev. Z. Henderson, \$1;.....	1 50
Miss Laura Jack, \$1; R. H. Whitfield, 1;.....	2
Unity Church, Prattville,.....	22
Rev. Wm. Howard, Agent for Depository at Gainsville,.....	38 67
Dec. 13. Amount received of Samuel H. Fowlkes, Treasurer of Alabama Baptist State Convention, in cash and receipts of Rev. J. D. Williams,.....	336 35
Amount contributed to Society by sundry persons during Convention,.....	67 37
To cash received of S. H. Fowlkes, Treasurer of Alabama State Convention for Foreign Bible Cause,.....	89 07
Cash received of do. do. for distribution of Bibles in China,.....	100
Cash rec'd of do. do. for distribution of Bibles in California,.....	100

\$4,271 92

1853.

Cash Paid Out.

Dec. 6. By amount paid Rev. Jas. B. Taylor for distribution of Bibles in China, as per receipt to Rev. J. H. DeVotie, \$	700
By amount of Rev. J. D. Williams's receipt to Joshua Foster, for funds received of Tuscaloosa Association for Bible Society, as reported in Minutes, Dec., 1853,....	25

1854.

April 4. By amount paid Lippencott, Grambo & Co for bill of Bibles,.....	154 89
May 8. By amount paid James G. Hudson, Treasurer of Bethel Book and Colporteur Society,.....	40
" 22. By amount paid for Bibles as per receipt from N. D. Ward, Agent for American and Foreign Bible Society,;	1076 24
By amount paid premium on check for above amount, ..	8 07
By amount paid Rev. Wm. Howard for freight and charges on Books sent to Gainesville,.....	8 67
By amount paid Rev. J. D. Williams for salary and expenses as Agent for Ala. Baptist Bible Society, as per order of Rev. J. H. DeVotie,.....	750 00
13. By amount of Rev. J. D. Williams's receipt to W. B. Har- rison for money received of Alabama Association,.....	65 90
By amount of Rev. J. D. Williams's receipt to Farmville Church,.....	5 65
By amount do do receipt to J. Hugely,.....	5 00
By Cash paid A. C. Dayton, Cor. Sec'y of Bible Board at Nashville, for Foreign distribution,.....	280 07

\$3982 85

This amount Cash on hand,.....

\$4271 92



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